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*Leadership to enhance, foster and promote economic development*

**Denali Commission Alaska**

**Performance Progress Report**

07/01/20 – 09/30/20

Award #1583

The Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District has directly assisted over 460 individual businesses applying for AK CARES Act grant funds to date. Direct assistance included providing background information on the program, technical assistance, aid in application completion, and appeals. Executive Director, Tim Dillon, also worked at the state level to lift detrimental regulations that inhibited businesses (such as commercial fisherman) from applying for funds. As of October 23rd, the Kenai Peninsula Borough businesses received a total of \$36,217,477 with 887 approved applications. Tim Dillon also advised incorporated communities trying to disburse municipal relief funds in addition to the state-wide program.

During the reporting period, KPEDD staff finalized the project scope for the Manufacturing Extension Program to design an informational video highlighting the region's unique assets, quality of life, current manufacturers in the region, and resources available to local businesses. The scope of work also included website capacity increases, technology upgrades for the upcoming Industry Outlook Forum, preparing and printing informational materials for regional businesses, and financial support for local manufacturers to attend trainings for operational expansions.

Tim Dillon, hosted discussions with Alaska State Parks Director Ricky Gease concerning feasibility and options for road rebuild to Red Mountain. Discussions with stakeholders are ongoing.

Lastly, Tim Dillon has worked with the Denali and Kodiak Borough to create regional economic development organizations of their own. These communities do not have existing economic development groups to support and grow regional assets. During discussions they were provided with Board structures, EDA requirements, project opportunities, contacts to support their development, administrative policy examples, and financial management best practices.



**Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR)**  
The State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community  
and Economic Development certified KPEDD as an  
ARDOR in 1989.



**Economic Development District (EDD)**  
The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic  
Development Administration (EDA) recognized KPEDD  
as an Economic Development District in 1988.